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TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM 564 - MAY 15, 1978

LONDON FOR KINSOLVING
PARIS FOR NICHOLAS MURPHY
OTHER ADDRESSEES FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

1. EGYPT. IN WHAT WAS PREVIOUSLY BILLED AS A MAJOR SPEECH, SADAT LASHED OUT SUNDAY AT HIS DOMESTIC CRITICS. EMBASSY CAIRO COMMENTED THAT WHILE EXPLICITLY DENYING IT, SADAT DEFENDED HIS GOVERNMENT AGAINST AN UPSURGE OF PARLIAMENTARY, MEDIA, AND PUBLIC CRITICISM.

2. HE STERNLY LECTURED GOVERNMENT CRITICS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF EXPLOITING DEMOCRACY. ACCUSING HIS CRITICS OF INSTIGATING A "CAMPAIGN OF DOUBT" ABOUT HIS POLICIES, HE CHALLENGED BOTH THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT. "I WILL CRUSH ANYONE WHO CASTS DOUBTS, BUT I WILL USE DEMOCRATIC MEANS," THE PRESIDENT DECLARED.

3. THE NEWLY-EMERGED WAFD CAME IN FOR PARTICULAR CRITICISM, BEING DEPICTED AS A TOOL OF THE BRITISH IN THE PAST AND OF REACTIONARY ELEMENTS AT PRESENT. SADAT APPARENTLY IS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE GROWTH OF INFLUENCE OF THE RIGHT. HE INDICATED EARLIER THAT THE REVIVAL OF THE
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MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD AND THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY WAS OF CONCERN. UNTIL EARLIER THIS SPRING, THESE ORGANIZATIONS WERE CAREFUL NOT TO DIRECTLY CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT, BUT MORE RECENTLY:

(A) THE BROTHERHOOD'S LEADING PUBLICATION HAS CRITICIZED SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE.

(B) THE GROWTH OF THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY ON EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IS WORRISOME. IN FIRST-ROUND VICTORIES THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY DEFEATED MARXISTS, NASIRITES, AND GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED SLATES ON VIRTUALLY ALL UNIVERSITY FACULTIES.

4. SADAT, IN HIS SPEECH, ALSO HINTED AT MOVES AGAINST THE LEFT. HE SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED THE LEFTIST UNION PROGRESSIVE PARTY AND NOTED THAT ITS PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS NEEDED RECONSIDERING. THE PARTY NEWSPAPER AL-ANALI HAS CRITICIZED SADAT'S FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE OSMAN AHMAD OSMAN, WHO THE PRESIDENT VIGOROUSLY DEFENDED IN THE SPEECH.

5. SADAT ALSO CRITICIZED THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOR THE LEVEL OF RECENT DEBATES, WHICH HE CALLED INSULTING TO THE ASSEMBLY AND THE PRESIDENCY. HE LECTURED THE PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THEIR OBLIGATION TO BE THE SCHOOL REFLECTING THE VALUES WHICH FUTURE GENERATIONS MUST EMULATE. THE PRESS WAS ALSO SCOLDED FOR NEGLECTING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. HE NOTED THAT IN THE FOURTH ESTATE THERE IS CHAOS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRESS ASSOCIATION SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF ITS MEMBERS; NEVERTHELESS, THE MEDIA WAS FILLED WITH ACCUSATIONS AND SLANDERS.

6. THE SPEECH CONTAINED STRONG WARNINGS BUT IT LACKED A DEFINITE STATEMENT OF POLICY. IF SADAT DOES NOT TAKE SOME ACTION, THE CREDIBILITY OF HIS GOVERNMENT COULD BE
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FURTHER ERODED AND HIS CRITICS COULD BE GIVEN ADDITIONAL AMMUNITION. SADAT, THEREFORE, IS FACED WITH A DILEMMA: HAVING EMBARKED UPON A DEMOCRATIC COURSE, HE NOW IS FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO CONTROL THE EXCESSES OF THOSE WHO TEST ITS LIMITS.

7. AGAINST THIS BACKDROP, SADAT PROPOSED A REFERENDUM TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO LIMIT BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE REFERENDUM WILL BE DESIGNED TO:

(A) BAR COMMUNISTS FROM POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE;

(B) TO PURGE THE NEW WAFD PARTY OF MEMBERS WHO HELD POSTS PRIOR TO THE 1952 REVOLUTION AND TO PREVENT POLITICIANS OF THAT ERA FROM REEMERGING ON THE POLITICAL SCENE; AND

(C) SET OUT FRESH GUIDELINES FOR EGYPT'S POLITICS AND PRESS.

8. THE NEW EGYPTIAN CABINET HELD ITS FIRST SESSION MAY 10, AT WHICH PRIME MINISTER SALIM STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ECONOMICALLY ON BOOSTING PRODUCTION AND REVITALIZING PUBLIC UTILITIES. HEADLINE TREATMENT WAS GIVEN IN THE PRESS TO THE CABINET'S DECISION TO "BRING TO ACCOUNT" INEFFICIENT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, EMBASSY CAIRO NOTED. THE CABINET ALSO ESTABLISHED SEVEN COMMITTEES TO HELP COORDINATE POLICY AMONG THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES; THESE COMMITTEES APPARENTLY WILL LARGELY FULFILL FUNCTIONS PREVIOUSLY CARRIED OUT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS, SUCH AS KAISOUNI. (SECRET)

9. AIRCRAFT PACKAGE DEAL. EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORTS THAT
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ISRAELI REACTION TO THE AIRCRAFT SALE CONTINUES TO BE AMBIVALENT. THE PREDOMINANT OPINION SEEMS TO BE THAT THE GUARANTEES BY THE SAUDIS WOULD BE HIGHLY UNRELIABLE AND THAT THE ADDITIONAL PLANES WOULD NOT NECESSARILY COMPENSATE THE ISRAELIS FOR THE DISADVANTAGES OF THE LINKED PACKAGE DEAL. HOWEVER, THE PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTAL DEBATE WHETHER OR NOT TO ACCEPT THE PACKAGE DEAL, SHOULD IT BE SUSTAINED BY CONGRESS, CONTINUES AND ITS OUTCOME REMAINS UNCLEAR.

10. THE EGYPTIAN PRESS FACTUALLY REPORTED THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE VOTE ON THE AIRCRAFT DEAL. AKHBAR CARRIES UPI REPORT IN THAT THE VOTE OF THE FULL SENATE IS CONSIDERED A TURNING POINT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND RIYADH, THE UNITED STATES' "GREATEST ALLY" IN THE ARAB WORLD. ANOTHER THEME WHICH IS ACHIEVING SOME PROMINENCE IN THE ARAB PRESS IS THAT THE SAUDIS HAVE BEEN HUMILIATED BY THE CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE SALE.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

11. ISRAEL. A TELEVISED INTERVIEW BY CHIEF OF STAFF EYTAN IS CAUSING GREAT CONSTERNATION IN ISRAEL. EYTAN ASSERTED THAT:

(A) THE ARAB STATES STILL WANT TO WIPE ISRAEL OFF THE MAP;

(B) ISRAEL CANNOT BE DEFENDED OR ITS INDEPENDENCE MAINTAINED WITHOUT THE WEST BANK AND GOLAN, DESPITE ALL MODERN MEANS OF WARFARE;

(C) THE EXTENT OF ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL WITH REGARD TO SINAI HAD TO BE NEGOTIATED;

(D) JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN BORDER AREAS, INCLUDING THE WEST BANK, IS OF GREAT IDEOLOGICAL AND MILITARY

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SIGNIFICANCE.

12. THE OPPOSITION REACTED QUICKLY. LABOR PARTY KNESSET MEMBERS ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S DUTY WAS TO PREPARE THE ARMY FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE BORDERS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE POLITICAL AUTHORITIES THROUGH PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. GENERAL EYTAN'S INTERVIEW,

LABOR CLAIMED, WAS A FORM OF PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT.

13. ARIEH ELIAV, OF THE SMALL SHELLI PARTY, ACCUSED EYTAN OF MIXING IN POLITICAL MATTERS THAT WERE NOT HIS BUSINESS. AL-HAMISHMAR CRITICIZED THE REMARKS ON GROUNDS THAT THEY COULD BE INTERPRETED AS CLAMPING THE LID ON THE PEACE PROCESS. THE JERUSALEM POST OBSERVED THAT EYTAN'S POSITION ON THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK WAS MORE EXTREME THAN BEGIN'S.

14. MEANWHILE, BEGIN REBUFFED AN EGYPTIAN SUGGESTION THAT ISRAEL TURN OVER CONTROL OF THE WEST BANK TO JORDAN AND THE GAZA STRIP TO EGYPT AS INTERIM STEPS TOWARD A MIDEAST PEACE. SADAT PUT FORTH THE IDEA LATE LAST WEEK IN A NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW. IT SEEMED DESIGNED TO OVERCOME ISRAELI OBJECTIONS TO CREATING A PALESTINIAN STATE. IN AN INTERVIEW IN KUWAIT, ARAFAT ALSO SEEMED TO REJECT SADAT'S SUGGESTION.

15. THE ISRAELI DAILY AL-HAMISHMAR SAID THAT WORK IS CONTINUING AT THE CONTROVERSIAL KADESH BARNEA SETTLEMENT SITE IN THE SINAI. THE PAPER SAID THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE SETTLEMENT NUCLEUS ARE BUSILY FARMING 75 ACRES AT THE SITE, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO CONTINUE CONSTRUCTION ON HOUSING AT THE SETTLEMENT AND ARE TEMPORARILY HOUSED AT A MILITARY CAMP. THE PAPER SAID
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THAT THE NUCLEUS IS EXPANDING ITS AGRICULTURAL WORK AND IS ALSO RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS. (CONFIDENTIAL)

16. JORDAN. A RUMOR HAS SURFACED IN AMMAN THAT KING HUSSEIN IS ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED. HIS INTENDED BRIDE IS SAID TO BE LIZA HALABY, THE DAUGHTER OF THE FORMER HEAD OF PANAM AIRWAYS AND THE FAA. AP QUOTED A PALACE SOURCE AS SAYING THAT AN "OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE" WOULD BE ISSUED SOMETIME THIS WEEK. (UNCLASSIFIED)

17. LEBANON. ARAFAT ASSERTED AGAIN LATE LAST WEEK TO THE PRESS THAT PLO COMMANDOS WOULD REMAIN IN SOUTH LEBANON AND CONTINUE TO OPERATE THERE DESPITE UNIFIL'S PRESENCE. HE ARGUED THAT THE FEDAYEEN PRESENCE WAS "ONLY GOVERNED BY THE (1969) CAIRO AGREEMENT." AT THE SAME TIME, FATAH SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDER KHALIL WAZIR SAID THAT THE PLO HAS REPLENISHED ITS MATERIAL LOSSES FROM THE ISRAELI INVASION AND NOW IS STRONGER IN WEAPONRY THAN BEFORE. HE IMPLIED, AP SAID, THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE NEW MILITARY SUPPLIES HAD BEEN PROVIDED BY SYRIA. (UNCLASSIFIED) VANCE

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